

Description of Activity:

Using Metaphors – students will create metaphors for a concept or skill you are learning in your class. The purpose is to create meaningful connections between curriculum and learned student experiences.

Example: Plate tectonics and two trains meeting on a track.

How to:

This activity can be used in a number of contexts and situations. It works best if students are split into small groups. Groups can be given the same topics, or different topics depending on your desired outcome.

Materials: Chart paper or white board/chalk board space

Resources: “Tuned Out” – Karen Hume

Recommendations:

It is helpful for students if they see an example of what you want from them before they begin.

Description of Activity:

Global News “Stay Tuned” – students will be prompted to define different assumptions and possible outcomes of a particular topic before they begin class. The purpose is to create opportunities where students are engaged to see if their hypotheses are correct or incorrect.

Example: Which five countries do you think have the most earthquakes in a year? Throughout the lesson depending on which country the students chose, meaningful discussions can be had on why they thought that country would have a lot of earthquakes or why it does or doesn’t have earthquakes etc.

How to:

This activity works best with topics that are controversial where students can take an opinion or where you can elicit an emotional response. Simply prepare questions before class starts or at any point during the class, and make the students wait for the answer during class.

Materials:

Students can record their ideas in their notebooks, or using whiteboards is a fun way to encourage them to write something down.

Resources: “Tuned Out” – Karen Hume

Recommendations:

It would be very easy to over use this strategy. I suggest that you choose this strategy when discussing controversial topics.